

REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are requested.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-6 and 11-16 as being obvious, under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Takano '031 in view of WIPO 01/51826 (using US 6,749,045 to Rosenfeldt as an English equivalent).

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1, and claims 12-16 depend from claim 11. Claims 1 and 11 require a hydraulic-mount decoupler 14. Page 4, lines 23-25 of the specification state, "The construction, operation, and advantages of hydraulic-mount decouplers are well known and are found, for example, in U.S. Patent Serial Nos. 5,273,262 and 6,622,995." Page 1, lines 17-23 state, "The decoupler flexes for relative vibratory motion between the two motor-vehicle components which is of relatively low displacement. The decoupler bottoms out (i.e., reaches its fully flexed limit and flexes no further) for relative motion between the two motor-vehicle components which is of relatively high displacement. Examples of hydraulic-mount decouplers are found in U.S. Patent Serial Nos. 5,273,262 and 6,622,995."

The examiner alleges that element 118 in figure 14 of Takano is a hydraulic-mount decoupler. Applicants respectfully disagree. Takano does not teach, suggest or describe a hydraulic-mount decoupler, as required by applicants' claims 1 and 11, because Takano discloses apparatus which operates on vibration frequency and not on vibration displacement (amplitude). Column 9, line 66 to column 10, line 27 of Takano describes the tenth embodiment shown in figures 14 and 15, wherein column 10, lines 24-27 state, "Each of the second passageways 148 incorporates the electrodes 150 and 152 which are connected to the control device in the same manner as in the ninth embodiment." The ninth embodiment is described in column 8, line 1 to column 9, line 60. Fluid flows through the first passageway 142 (and not the second passageways 148) for low frequency vibrations. Fluid flows through the second passageways 148 (and not the first passageway 142) for high frequency vibrations. See column 9, lines 22-60.

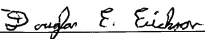
Thus, since a hydraulic-mount decoupler depends on vibration displacement, Takano does not disclose a hydraulic-mount decoupler, as required by applicants' claims 1 and 11.

The examiner's rejection of claims 1-20 as being obvious, under 35 USC 103, is respectfully traversed. The examiner rejects these claims as being unpatentable over Takano '031 in view of WIPO 01/51826 (using US 6,749,045 to Rosenfeldt as an English equivalent) and further in view of Baldini '262. Applicants' previous remarks concerning the patentability of claims 1-6 and 11-16 over Takano and Rosenfeldt are herein incorporated by reference.

Baldini does disclose a hydraulic-mount decoupler. The examiner alleges it would have been obvious to have modified the first orifice (first passageway 142) to include the hydraulic-mount decoupler of Baldini in order to provide a means of tuning the orifice for particular frequency vibration inputs without having to adjust the circumference of the actual orifice. Takano already uses his control device 160 to apply a voltage to the electrodes 150 and 152 associated with the second orifices (second passageways 148) which depends upon vibration frequency (see, for example, column 9, lines 47-58), so there is no motivation in Takano and/or Baldini to have Takano otherwise tune for vibration frequency or even adjust orifice size assuming that would tune for vibration frequency. Also, there is no motivation to tune for vibration frequency using a hydraulic-mount coupler whose operation is based on vibration displacement (e.g., a more flexible hydraulic-mount decoupler would bottom out [i.e., reach its fully flexed limit] at a smaller vibration displacement).

Inasmuch as each of the rejections has been answered by the above remarks, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment



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